

Exhibit 1

United States District Court
Northern District of Texas
Lubbock Division

State of Texas,

Plaintiff,

v.

Merrick Garland, *et al.*,

Defendants.

No. 5:23-cv-34-H

DECLARATION OF MICHAEL MEYER

My name is Michael Meyer, and I am over the age of 18 and fully competent in all respects to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge and expertise of the matters herein stated.

1. I am the Deputy Commissioner of Finance at the Texas Education Agency (“TEA”). I have worked for TEA in this capacity since June 2018. As a part of my role, I oversee TEA’s school finance operations, including the administration of the Foundation School Program and analysis and processing of financial data. My responsibilities also include representing TEA in legislative hearings and school finance-related litigation.

2. TEA estimates that the average funding entitlement from state and local sources for fiscal year 2023 will be \$9,564 per student in attendance for an entire school year. If a student qualified for additional Bilingual and Compensatory Education weighted funding, it would cost the State \$11,781 to educate each student in attendance for the entire school year. Most, if not all non-citizen (*i.e.*, “alien”) children would likely qualify for both Bilingual and Compensatory Education weighted funding.

3. TEA has not received any information directly from the federal government

regarding the precise number of non-citizen children in Texas. However, I am aware that the U.S. Health and Human Services (“HHS”) Office of Refugee Resettlement provides data for a subset of that population: unaccompanied children (“UAC”) (available at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/grant-funding/unaccompanied-children-released-sponsors-state>, accessed on October 17, 2023 at 2:20 p.m. CST). It indicates that in Texas, 3,272 UAC were released to sponsors during the 12-month period covering October 2014 through September 2015; 6,550 UAC were released to sponsors during the 12-month period covering October 2015 through September 2016; 5,391 UAC were released to sponsors during the 12-month period covering October 2016 through September 2017; 4,136 UAC were released to sponsors during the 12-month period covering October 2017 through September 2018; 9,900 UAC were released to sponsors during the 12-month period covering October 2018 through September 2019; 2,336 UAC were released to sponsors during the 12-month period covering October 2019 through September 2020; 15,341 UAC were released during the 12-month period covering October 2020 through September 2021; and 19,071 UAC were released during the 12-month period covering October 2021 through September 2022.

4. If each of the children described above enrolls in and achieves full attendance at a Texas public school during the school year following the period during which they are released to a sponsor, and qualifies for Bilingual and Compensatory Education weighted funding (such that the annual cost to educate each student from state and local sources for fiscal years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 would be approximately \$9,573, \$9,639, \$9,841, \$10,330, \$11,323, \$11,536, \$11,719, and \$11,781, respectively), the annual costs to educate these groups of children for fiscal years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023

would be approximately \$31.32 million, \$63.13 million, \$53.05 million, \$42.73 million, \$112.10 million, \$26.95 million, \$179.78 million, and \$224.67 million, respectively. These estimates do not include any potential costs associated with UAC continuing in Texas public schools beyond one year.

5. Texas public school formula funding is comprised of state and local funds. Funding entitlements are initially based on projections of student counts, attendance patterns, and other factors, and adjusted as actual data become available. Districts often experience changes in their student enrollment from year to year resulting from births and deaths, movement in and out of the district, and other factors. The State plans for a net increase of approximately 15,000-25,000 students in average daily attendance across Texas each year, based on available data.

6. The Foundation School Program serves as the primary funding mechanism for providing state aid to public schools in Texas. Any additional UAC enrolled in and attending Texas public schools would increase the State's cost of the Foundation School Program over what it otherwise would have been.

7. Based on my knowledge and expertise regarding school finance issues impacting the State of Texas, I anticipate that the total costs to the State of providing public education to UAC will rise in the future to the extent that the number of UAC enrolled in the State's public school system increases.

8. All of the facts and information contained within this declaration are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on this 17th day of October 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Meyer", positioned above a horizontal line.

MICHAEL MEYER